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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
4/24/12**

The Board of Selectmen met in the Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Town Hall as scheduled with David Matthews, Steven M. deBettencourt, Tom Alonzo, Carl "Ernie" Sund and Town Manager Kerry Speidel present.
Absent was Paula Bertram

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. FY2013 Budget & Override; Review & Recommendations on Town Meeting Warrant Articles –

The Town Manager informed the Board that she had met with the Board of Health (BOH) the previous evening and has developed three alternative scenarios to the Land Use Department Administrative Assistant position cut that may be more acceptable.

- (1) Increase the combined Conservation and BOS position to 40 hours per week and then reduce both Building and Planning Dept. Administrative Assistant hours to 34 per week.
(Both the Building and Planning positions are currently 40 hr. per week positions and all 40 hour positions are being reduced across the board to 36 hrs. This would mean an additional 2 hours for each of those departments cut.)
- (2) Keep all four positions in the Land Use Dept. Building/Planning would be reduced to 35 hrs each. BOH and Conservation would be reduced to 20 hours each.
- (3) Reduce hours in all Land Use Depts. to 27.5 hrs.

All three scenarios would amount to the same in savings as in the originally proposed balanced budget.

Discussion ensued concerning the notification of all Land Use Departments about these scenarios and the concern of being able to keep all these departments open at the same time. Mr. Alonzo stated that he felt the Town Manager has done her job and that there was too much time being spent analyzing this issue.

BOH member Dave Passios voiced his concern about all the positions being over-taxed.

Jack Rodriquenz, DPW Director, spoke and said that as a Department Head he feels that the Town is not operating efficiently and that there is not enough money. He stated that with all due respect it was not the Board's decision to make on this issue and that they had hired a person to do this job, and they should let her do it.

Mr. deBettencourt questioned the possibility of union bumping with these positions. Ms. Speidel said that all of the union positions have bumping rights but that it was not up for public discussion.

Corinne Scouten, 830 Mass Ave. asked why only one department was being reduced, and not all, without putting people out of work. Ms. Speidel replied that cuts have been made in every department starting with all 40 hr. positions being reduced to 36 hrs.

The Town Manager will discuss this matter further with all of the Land Use Departments.

2. Establishment of Memorial Day Committee – Not discussed

3. Minutes/Warrants/Action File Issues – The following minutes and warrants were presented for approval.

1. Minutes: None
2. Warrants – 62-12, 4/25/12, \$654,909.86
22P-12, 4/26/12, \$589,887.73
3. Action File Issues –

Town Manager Reports- Ms. Speidel said that she had received more detail on the Senior Citizen Circuit Breaker rebate which is that applications will be taken throughout the year (2011) and if you are applying for a 2011 rebate, you can also apply for rebates for 2010 and 2009. Informational packets on the Circuit Breaker can be picked up at the Eagle House Senior Center.

The Municipal Aggregation Program will be offering greatly reduced rates as of June 1, 2012 from 7.77 cents per KW to 5.85 cents per KW which amounts to a 25% reduction which gives Lunenburg the lowest rates in the state. The consultant suggests that the town look into a longer term contract the next time it goes out to bid due to the fact that within the next six months, the rates may bottom out. Ms. Speidel will have more information at the next BOS meeting.

An Open Meeting Law complaint was filed against the Town Clerk's office and the Board by the Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise newspaper. A reporter from that paper claimed that when she checked the outside bulletin board on Friday April 13th for the April 17th BOS agenda, it was not there. Ms. Speidel said that she had submitted the agenda on April 12th and that it was date stamped as such at about Noon. When asked, the Town Clerk told her that it was posted, outside in the bulletin board, at approximately 6PM on April 12th.

Ms. Speidel told the Board that if they were concerned about the votes that were taken that evening relating to the FY13 Budget & Override and the Memorial Day Committee, then those items will be added again to the agenda for confirmation at the next BOS meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

Discussion: Mr. Matthews informed the BOS that he had drafted a letter to Representative Jen Benson, identifying two concerns. The first was concern regarding the State's attempt to clarify taxation of Solar Farm development. One proposal under review by the House would severely limit the Town ability to obtain a full and fair tax value on this type of development. The Town is opposed to approval of this legislation.

The second item was regarding the Quinn Bill. Some Police Unions (excluding Lunenburg) are trying to force towns to pay the state's 50% share. Lunenburg's contract already addresses this issue and it was also decided by the Supreme Judicial Court that cities and towns can't be held responsible for the state's share. The Town is opposed to approval of any legislation that would attempt to override the SJC decision.

Being no further business Mr. deBettencourt made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sund seconded. The board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

May 1, 2012	May 5, 2012 Annual Town Meeting	May 8, 2012
May 15, 2012	May 22, 2012	June 5, 2012

*Respectfully submitted,
Susan Doherty, Recording Secretary
Board of Selectmen*